

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass system for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising:

a visit data storing means for storing visit data of a visitor;

an input and output means for entering appointment data and transmitting the appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein;

an identification data reading means for reading identification data from identification means of the visitor;

a visitor identifying means for identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and for preparing visitor's data; and,

a visitor's data transmitting means for transmitting the visitor's data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the visitor's data therein;

an appointment data retrieving means for retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network;
and

a permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

2. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass system for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising:

a visit data storing means for storing visit data of a visitor;

an input and output means for entering appointment data and transmitting the appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein;

an identification data reading means for reading identification data from identification means of the visitor;

a visitor identifying means for identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data;

an appointment data retrieving means for retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and,

an arrival notification data transmitting means for transmitting data to notify the visitor's arrival to the input and output means through the communication network; and

a permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

3. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass system for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising:

a visit data storing means for storing visit data of a visitor;

an input and output means for entering appointment data and transmitting the appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein;

an identification data reading means for reading identification data from identification means of the visitor;

a visitor identifying means for identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data;

an appointment data retrieving means for retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and,

a permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

4. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 1, further comprising:

appointment data retrieving means for retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and,

arrival notification data transmitting means for transmitting data to notify the visitor's arrival to the input and output means through the communication network.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 3, wherein said identification data reading means includes first and second identification data reading means.

7. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 6, wherein said identification means includes a business card and at least said second identification data reading means includes a business card reader for reading characters provided on a visitor's business card as the identification data.

8. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 7, wherein said identification means includes a bar code and at least said first identification data reading means includes a bar code reader.

9. (Currently Amended) The visitor pass system according to claim 8, wherein said bar code is provided on a staff's business card ~~of the visitor~~.

10. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 8, wherein said visitor identifying means includes number entering means and said appointment data retrieving means retrieves appointment data related to the number entered into the number entering means when there is no appointment data related to visitor's data prepared on the basis of a bar code read by the bar code reader.

11. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 9, wherein said visitor identifying means includes number entering means and said appointment data retrieving means retrieves appointment data related to the number entered into the number entering means when there is no appointment data related to visitor's data prepared on the basis of a bar code read by the bar code reader.

12. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 6, further comprising permit data output controlling means for allowing the permit data output means to output permit data when there is appointment data related to visitor's data prepared on the basis of identification data read by the second identification data reading means.

13. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 2, wherein said arrival notification data transmitting means transmits arrival notification data to the input and output means through the communication network when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

14. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 4, wherein said arrival notification data transmitting means transmits arrival notification data to the input and output means through the communication network when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

15. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 3, wherein said permit data is entry permit data or departure permit data.

16. (Currently Amended) The visitor pass system according to claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein said permit data is entry permit data or departure permit data.

17. (Original) The visitor pass system according to claim 3, wherein said system is capable of providing an instruction to transit the permit data from the input and output means to the permit data output means through the communication network.

18. (Currently Amended) The visitor pass system according to claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein said system is capable of providing an instruction to transmit the permit data from the input and output means to the permit data output means through the communication network.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The visitor pass system according to claim ~~19~~ 1, further comprising means for unlocking or opening a gate by recognizing the permit data provided on the card.

22. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass method for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein, said appointment data entered into input and output means by a staff;

(b) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor by identification data reading means;

(c) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data by visitor identifying means; and

(d) transmitting the visitor's data to visit data storing means through the communication network by visitor's data transmitting means to store the data therein;

(e) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and

(f) outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

23. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass method for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein, said appointment data entered into input and output means by a staff;

(b) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor by identification data reading means;

(c) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data by visitor identifying means;

(d) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network by appointment data retrieving means; and

(e) transmitting data to notify the visitor's arrival to the input and output means through the communication network by arrival notification data transmitting means; and

(f) outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

24. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass method for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein, said appointment data entered into input and output means by a staff;

(b) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor by identification data reading means;

(c) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data by visitor identifying means;

(d) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network by appointment data retrieving means; and,

(e) outputting permit data ~~by permit data output means~~ on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

25. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass program for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

- (a) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor;
- (b) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data; and
- (c) transmitting the visitor's data to visit data storing means for storing visitor's visit data through the communication network to store the data therein;
- (d) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and
- (e) outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

26. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass program for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

- (a) transmitting appointment data entered by a staff to visit data storing means for storing visitor's visit data through the communication network to store the data therein;
- (b) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor;
- (c) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data;
- (d) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network; and

(e) transmitting appointment data to notify the visitor's arrival to the input and output means through the communication network; and

(f) outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

27. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass program for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

(a) transmitting appointment data entered by a staff to visit data storing means for storing visitor's visit data through the communication network to store the data therein;

(b) reading identification data from identification means of a visitor;

(c) identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and preparing visitor's data; and

(d) retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network ; and

(e) outputting permit data ~~by permit data output means~~ on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.